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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Continuation Application of S.N. 09/350,923:

**Yosuke SHIRATA**

Serial No.: **NEW**

Group Art Unit: **2851** (Expected)

Filed: **October 10, 2000**

Examiner: **NGUYEN H.** (Expected)

For: **LITHOGRAPHY SYSTEM AND METHOD**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Director of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: October 10, 2000

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned Continuation application, concurrently filed herewith. Please amend the above-captioned Continuation application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification by inserting after the title:  --This application is a continuation of prior application Serial No. 09/350,923 filed July 12, 1999, which is a continuation of prior application Serial No. 09/055,954 filed April 7, 1998 --.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 4: Line 1, delete "or 3".